

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/ K: PWKRIEBEL: SMK

EXT. 22332 - 6/8/73

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TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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S E C R E T STATE 111607

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, JA, UK, AS

SUBJECT: ROK CONSULTATION ON FOREIGN POLICY CHANGES

REF: SEOUL 3597

FOR AMBASSADOR

1. WE APPRECIATE ROKG DESIRE TO REFRAIN FROM DETAILED DISCUSSIONS OF THEIR FOREIGN POLICY PROPOSALS WITH OTHER FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS UNTIL AFTER DISCUSSION WITH US COMPLETE. IT IS INCREASINGLY CLEAR HOWEVER THAT BRITISH AND AUSTRALIANS AND PROBABLY JAPANESE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DEVELOP FAIRLY GOOD IDEA OF NATURE AND EXTENT OF ROK PROPOSALS. ROK PRESS HAS HINTED DIRECTLY ON ALL SIGNIFICANT ASPECTS AND THIS ALONG WITH INFORMED SPECULATION AND OFFICIAL ROKG DISCUSSIONS (INCLUDING THOSE BY PRIME MINISTER ON TOUR) PERMIT DEVELOPMENT OF REASONABLY ACCURATE PICTURE OF CURRENT ROKG THINKING.

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2. ROKG OBVIOUSLY UNDERSTANDS THAT WHATEVER DECISIONS IT MAY MAKE AND WHATEVER INITIATIVES IT MAY WISH TO UNDERTAKE, SUCCESSFUL DEVELOPMENT OF KIND POLICY IT HAS OUTLINED TO US DEPENDS ON CLOSE SYMPATHETIC COOPERATION ALSO OF MAJOR ROK ALLIES, PARTICULARLY UK, JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA.

3. THESE GOVERNMENTS ARE COMING TO US TO CLARIFY ELEMENTS OF ROK PROPOSAL AS THEY BEGIN PROCESS OF DETERMINING THEIR OWN POSITIONS. WE BELIEVE IT IS NECESSARY FOR US

TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND CLARIFY INITIATIVES ROKG IS NOW CONSIDERING TAKING. THIS WOULD NOT FREEZE ROKG POLICY NOR IN OUR VIEW WOULD IT FORCE THEIR HAND, FOR EXAMPLE, IN GOING FURTHER THAN THEY OTHERWISE MAY DECIDE TO GO. PRESENT AWKWARD SITUATION CAN ONLY LEAD TO MISUNDERSTANDING AND PERHAPS RESENTMENT ON PART OF IMPORTANT NATIONS AT A TIME WHEN THEIR ROLE AND GOOD WILL IS MOST VALUABLE TO ROKG. IN INSTANCE OF UK, AUSTRALIA, AND JAPAN WE THINK RISK OF DISCLOSURE IS MINIMAL. WE AWARE OF KOREAN SUSPICIONS REGARDING JAPAN YET JAPANESE HAVE HELD CLOSELY RECENT DISCUSSION ON KOREAN ISSUE WHICH AS YOU KNOW TOUCHED ON ALL ASPECTS OF POLICY ROK CURRENTLY HAS UNDER CONSIDERATION, AS WELL AS PREVIOUSLY NORTH- SOUTH TALKS BEFORE JULY 4 ANNOUNCEMENT.

4. REQUEST THAT YOU SEE FOREIGN MINISTER AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY, AND RECOMMEND THAT HE PROVIDE COMPLETE FILL-IN TO UK, JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA SO THAT WE MAY BE FREE TO DISCUSS WITH THEM THEIR CONCERNS AND VIEWS ON ROK POLICY. SUCH DISCUSSIONS, OF COURSE, WOULD BE WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO FINAL ROKG POSITION, OR US POSITION AS WELL.

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